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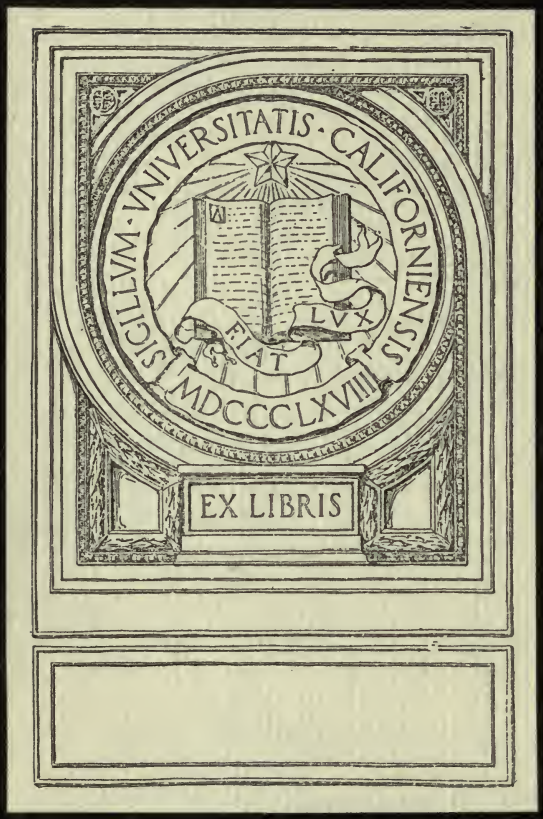
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Patriotism Through Education Series

No. 1

Knowledge By the People True Basis of National Security

Address by

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President of the National Security League

at

SPEAKERS' TRAINING CAMP FOR EDUCATION IN PATRIOTIC SERVICE

and

CONFERENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

Chautauqua, N. Y., July 2, 1917.

Issued by

NATIONAL SECURITY LEAGUE,

19 WEST 44th STREET

NEW YORK CITY

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IT is a privilege to greet you who come as delegates from all sections of the union to aid in plans for its safety. This is a time for hard thinking and valiant deeds. To do and think for the country is not, however, sufficient in this world crisis, unless the thought is followed by action insuring victory.

In a democracy, no great war can be successfully waged without continued and intelligent popular approval. The experience of our Allies has demonstrated that the orator is a factor in gaining that support and ranks with the fighter and producer in shop and field as an element in the conduct of the war.

In truth, the fate of the nation depends upon public opinion of rights defined by the press, and on the forum. In England, the Government has assumed direction of both classes of publicity, and it is largely because of this that the British people are strong and single of purpose.

Today, our people hunger for knowledge of America's needs. They want to know the intimate facts about the conflict and all its related problems. Those who come to learn of these things constitute no commonplace audience; they are fellow citizens seeking information, so that they may express their patriotism in the most certain and practical manner for their country's good.

To assure results worthy of such gatherings, the speaker must have knowledge of his subject matter and a message ringing true to the aspirations of the people and the obligations of the nation.

Mastery of military needs as now developed covers a vast field of inquiry. It is said that it takes the industry of fourteen people to support a single soldier, and of eighty people to maintain a single sailor in the fighting ranks. We expect to put in the field 2,000,000 soldiers and have on the seas 100,000 sailors. This means that every human activity and all industrial resources in this country must be applied to win the war.

Agriculture affords the foundation to maintain the army; mechanical production of the instruments of war is the means

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of military initiative; the men in the battle line apply the product of the farmer, the machinist and the organizer.

CREATE A WAR COUNCIL

To obtain efficient marshalling of these varied forces, it is essential that they be controlled by a central body with unlimited authority. The war should be conducted by a War Council, appointed by the President, with functions of direction superior to the Cabinet, whose Secretaries should be executives, carrying out the plans of the higher authority. This suggestion means a revolution in the methods of American life.

To bring to the people the consciousness of this fact and the part the individual must play in it is in itself a mission worthy of any body of citizens.

Related to this work must be the fundamental one of awakening the people to the reasons for the war, as well as of its conduct. At the present I am prepared to submit that:

The people of the United States are in main sound asleep and ignorant of both the problems and the grave dangers that confront them;

That Germany is designedly avoiding doing anything that will awaken them; that its purpose is to first destroy our Allies and then deal with us single-handed;

That conditions in Congress, especially as evidenced by the failure to press all of the legislation wisely demanded by our President, is due, not so much to ignorance in the halls of legislation, as to the reflex that the Congressmen obtain from the views of their constituents at home.

That we should spread through the length and breadth of the land the last public utterance of that great American,

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the late Honorary President of the National Security League, the Hon. Joseph H. Choate, who said, speaking of Congress, "For God's Sake Hurry Up"!

This nation will give doubly for freedom if it gives quickly.

> I further submit that if the American people understood that nothing in the whole world counts for anything except winning the war quickly for peace and democracy, they would be willing to give unmeasured support to the plans of Mr. Wilson, who has nobly voiced America's right policy, and they would recognize that he is trying to do a great and broad work, and they would demand a speeding up of the entire war programme in no uncertain manner. Then the voice of the people would be the voice of Congress.

The nation must be aroused to the fact that this is our war, not England's war, France's war, or Italy's; that unless we fight when we have Allies we will fight alone; that if our Allies are defeated we will be burdened by fear and enshackled by militarism for all time to come, and that the glory, freedom and happiness of all our people will be dimmed and perhaps darkened for many generations.

FIGHTING FOR AN IDEAL

Our work for America is to see that our children enjoy all the liberty, opportunity and happiness you and I have known. This is inconceivable with Germany victor.

Above all, however, rises the impersonal view, and that is that we believe in democracy. We would rather die than be subjects of autocracy. America to us is an idea and an ideal, and for these we are ready to fight.

Do the American people understand these things? They are told we must "make Democracy safe". I submit that the philosophy behind this lofty sentiment passes over their heads. We who speak

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must explain all it means; we must give them the direct personal, selfish relation of the individual to the struggle. They must be told that it effects the lives of men, the honor of women, the education of youths; the exercise of free speech and of religious views; the right to labor and enjoy the usufruct thereof; to have and to hold property exempt from burdensome taxation; and above all, the right to those liberties created by aspiring men and women of all ages embodied in the Magna Chartas, Bills of Rights and Constitutions which are the foundation of freedom throughout the world, and represent the progress of all mankind through all civilization. They must feel within their very souls that it is this civilization that we and they are fighting for, and if we tell them this with vision, we will then, and only then, arouse the Americans to battle as they did in 1776 and 1861.

To do this work and do it well is a matter that will require an infinite amount of preparation and of care. We must initiate a movement of mental preparedness of the people. I hope that under the leadership of your speakers, who cover so many subjects, that you will be able to analyze into component elements the matters which should be brought home to the average audience, and then prepare syllabi of lectures and discuss the best method of delivering them.

Primarily, I would suggest the importance of studying the origin and development of efficiency in countries like Germany and Japan, in both of which all of the resources of the nation, human and physical, are applied for the development of the state power. The extent to which the state controls the individual has always been emphasized to my mind by the story of one of the Branch Chairmen of the Security League, the dearly beloved Hamilton W. Mabie. He told of his conversation with a Japanese Admiral during which he remarked to the Admiral his surprise that a Japanese sailor would serve for a few cents a month, whereupon the Admiral said, "A Japanese soldier or sailor would scorn to take pay for service to his Emperor; the 32c a month is merely the measure of his tobacco allowance." This marks the quality of the patriotism of one of our allies.

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We in America do not wish for one instant to destroy individual initiative or enthrone KULTUR, but we do want to have the people understand the organization of nations which are competing with them, in war or in peace.

For Americans, it would seem as if the solution in view, of the intelligence and inherent patriotism of our people, is to merely plant the seed of knowledge and rely upon their bringing about the results which will enable them to gather the flower of efficiency. If the American people understand and correctly value the import of good government, scientific administration, conservation of resources, and life, with elimination of all waste, we will obtain the necessary amount of efficiency of our own direct kind to make a success of democracy.

DEMOCRACY IN BALANCE

Democracy hangs in the balance, waiting to prove its right to existence—merely because of the neglect of the intelligent people in this country to apply the same methods of organization to the affairs of the nation, that they have so successfully directed to their private enterprises. It is up to these men, captains of industry, and of labor, in all parts of the country to cease slacking, for the nation needs them now to perform public duties, and we must tell them to work and think for their nation. If they do not safeguard America, America will no longer safeguard them or theirs. In connection with this preachment, however, we should point out the different fields of service they can be active in. If we find the disease, we should suggest the remedy.

We must also understand our true history and thus make clearer the solution of many problems of national life. A few cold facts generally omitted by our teachers as to the history of our country, coupled with suggestion of the cost of carelessness, waste, and political malfeasance and failure to meet the call of citizenship, will, if properly presented, have a sobering effect, even on the mind of the Jingo who believes Uncle Sam can lick the world.

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Our speakers, of course, must define, not only the reasons for the war, but how modern wars are fought; they must be able to explain why it is the fourteen men or the eighty men are required to support the one man at the front, on land or sea; they must be able to explain the relation of industry and the production of supplies to ability to fight, and have some knowledge of the problems of taxation; they should explain also that honest local and state governments will reduce taxation and enable the people to give more towards the Federal government's effort to maintain itself and the Allies, as will common sense, personal economy and elimination of unessentials. The work and plans of Mr. Hoover should be detailed so that we will always have in mind the fact that saving is nearly as good as raising—and that a nation may be enriched because of what its people can do without.

We should emphasize the proper method of selecting those who are to constitute the armed forces of the country. In a democracy, a people's army must defend the people and there is but one way of obtaining an army that is fair to all—that is, Universal Obligatory Military Training and Service. Those who have studied this subject agree we will come to this, and we must bring to the people a realizing sense of the fact that Universal Obligatory Service, or Conscription, is a national necessity, for it provides the only method of raising a sufficient force to keep the shores of America free from the aggressor in a world of war. America will never again disregard Washington's advice by allowing its weakness to invite insult, the repulse of which has brought this armed conflict. There is only one way to be strong—and that is to be fully prepared. Furthermore, in explaining Conscription, we must make our audiences understand that the men who give the six or seven months to the country in learning how to defend it, will receive more than they give, because of the fact that the training is an endowment of health, of discipline and of schooling in sympathetic understanding of their fellow men, of inestimable benefit to them throughout life.

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NO CLASS DISTINCTION

This brings me to one other point that too much stress cannot be laid upon. Our speakers should have the correct viewpoint of their audiences. They must be men and women who feel that there can be no class distinction between Americans; who are for America First. All good Americans must be alike to them, whether they be rich or poor, Easterners or Westerners, Northerners or Southerners, white or black, and the appeal of our speakers ought to be so inherently catholic in its democracy as to strike a responsive cord in the breast of every right-feeling American. There has been too much talk of masses and classes in connection with this war. Neither rich nor poor have any distinctive monopoly of patriotism.

In this work, we shall have to deal with certain other tendencies that are of vast import to the country. I will refer to one in particular, and that is the trend which has arisen toward the socialization of resources and industry. The government is, of necessity, bound to take control of many of our great industries, and we will soon have the practical application of many doctrines of socialism which we never expected to find in operation in this country. We must consider how far this trend is to be encouraged and what the limitations should be; we should measure the capacity and willingness of the people to govern, when government becomes so complex and varied in its functions, and weigh the conditions which will exist when the war ceases. In fact, it may well be said that in time of war we must prepare for peace. This preparation is a difficult and a serious work. In fact, the problems that confront the people are so many and grave that except for our abiding faith in their native intelligence and in their deep-seated fervor for the maintenance of our institutions, we might well doubt the outcome. The matters for solution by the people of this country are so complex that the greatest work that we can accomplish at the present time is to prepare the people by giving them information to solve their difficulties. These difficulties or any other are personal to every man, and as the war progresses this will be realized by no uncertain pressure. You will have

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receptive audiences, anxious to learn and ready to carry forward national upbuilding in all its phases.

It is to this labor that we are to dedicate ourselves and I hope that you will enter upon it with a feeling that you have a most solemn and holy duty to accomplish, and that your deliberations will be with but one purpose and that is SERVICE, and that throughout you will recognize the fact that the bringing of knowledge to the people means NATIONAL SECURITY.

PERIPATETIC UNIVERSITY

If you accept this viewpoint, you will work to provide a nationwide organization of our speakers' campaign. It is a simple matter, if you have the enthusiasm, to create a peripatetic university, a patriotic Chautauqua, which will, with the aid of hundreds of capable lecturers, spread the gospel which will make democracy efficient and triumphant.

In this undertaking, the Federal Government will cooperate, as will most educational bodies and departments. It is, however, time that recognition is given to the true part of education and the educator in national life. If knowledge is national security, let us recognize the dignity of education and the educator, and the extent to which by coordinated effort the great field of instruction should be extended on practical lines to create a greater America, and help all mankind.

We have a place in the Cabinet for a Secretary of Agriculture, for Postal Affairs, for Commerce—let us have a Secretary of Education. The opportunity for awakening new thought and creating new fields of activity on the part of the people should make this the most important position in the gift of the President.

We should appoint a Committee to urge Congress to carry this plan into effect.

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In the meantime, we must spread the truth in whatever way we can to help the country—under the slogan "Awake and Safeguard America!"—and thus afford the guarantee to our President and his co-workers at Washington, high and low, and to our soldiers on the field and our sailors on the sea, that in their battle for our liberties, they have behind them the full strength of the industry, organization and spiritualism of an united people

S. STANWOOD MENKEN.

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THE NATIONAL SECURITY LEAGUE

Is a non-political, non-partisan league of American men and women who are earnestly working to secure adequate national defense from Congress. THE LEAGUE IS ALSO DOING AN EFFECTIVE WORK PROMOTING PATRIOTIC EDUCATION AND UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING AND SERVICE.

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[NOTE.—Joseph H. Choate was Honorary President from date of organization until his death May 14, 1917.]

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All those who believe in forwarding its work are earnestly urged to support it and aid in securing new members.

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